

REMARKSSummary Of The Office Action

Claims 20-39 are pending.

Claims 20-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs.

Claims 20-31 and 36-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious from Barton in view of Carr et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,011,520 ("Carr"). Claims 32-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious from Barton and Carr in view of Wofford et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,011,520 ("Wofford").

Applicants' Reply

Applicants respectfully traverse the prior art rejections.

Applicants have amended Figure 1 to label the subcomponents of the liquid jet pump 3, and amended the specification to include a description of the labeled subcomponents. No new matter is added. (See original FIG. 1).

Applicants have further amended claim 22 to identify the low pressure range achieved by liquid jet pump 3. No new matter is added. (See specification ¶ [0013]). Applicants have also amended claim 22 to identify the low pressure range achieved by liquid jet pump 3. No new matter is added. (See specification ¶ [0013]).

Applicants note that "a liquid jet pump" as understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art, and as shown in replacement FIG. 1, consists not only of a constricted nozzle, but

also a housing enclosing the constricted nozzle. The housing has suction port, which is connected to reaction chamber. The constricted nozzle itself is an end of a supply tube extending through the wall of the housing from a pump 6. A drain-off tube is disposed opposite the constricted nozzle 3.2. The drain-off tube which also extends through the wall of housing to into a reservoir, which feeds the pump/supply tube.

Prior art rejections.

For brevity, applicants do not reproduce, but incorporate by reference the Remarks presented in their previous Replies (See e.g., Replies mailed December 14, 2006, September 8, 2006, April 24 2007 etc.). Applicants request the Examiner kindly reconsider the Remarks presented in the previous Replies.

Here, applicants again note that the present Office Action at §3 page 6 mistakenly identifies Barton's spray nozzles (94) as a liquid jet pump as recited in applicant's claims. As understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art a liquid jet pump includes more than a constricted nozzle. Applicants have amended claims 20 and 39 to provide explicit definition of the liquid jet pumps. Barton's spray nozzles do not make a liquid jet pump.

As discussed in the previous Replies, independent claims 20 and 39 in the instant application are not obvious from, and patentable over, the combination of the cited prior art.

Dependent claims 21-38

Dependent claims 21-38 are patentable over the cited references — Barton and Carr, for at least the same reasons that parent claim 20 is patentable over these references.

With respect to claim 24, an additional reason is that the systems of Barton and Carr cannot technically achieve the claimed low pressure ranges 30 mbar- 100 mbar, as is readily understood by a person of skill in art.

With respect to claim 28, an additional reason is that the systems of Barton and Carr do not disclose a secondary air inlet to control the negative pressures .

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of which are requested.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner should kindly contact the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview in case there remain any outstanding issues.

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